

MAR 2 1998



CONSORTIA CONNECTIONS

Celebrate Learning

Summer/Fall, 1997

Alberta Education home page: <http://ednet.edc.gov.ab.ca>



Partners in Learning

Research shows...

Joyce L. Epstein, is co-director of the Center on Families, Communities, Schools, and Children's Learning and co-director of the Schools, Family and Community Partnerships Program in the Center for Research on the Education of Student Placed at Risk, Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore. In *School/Family/Community Partnerships: Caring for the Children We Share*, Phi Delta Kappan, May 1995, p. 701, Epstein summarizes her theory, framework, and guidelines that can assist schools in building partnerships. Epstein writes, "If educators view students as *children*, they are likely to see both the family and the community as partners with the school in children's education and development. Partners recognize their shared interests in and responsibilities for children, and they work together to create better programs and opportunities for students." Further, "in a partnership, teachers and administrators create more *family-like schools*. ...In a partnership, parents create more *school-like families*. ...Communities also create *family-like settings*, services, and events to enable families to better support their children...When all these concepts combine, children experience *learning communities* or *caring communities*." p. 702. Epstein outlines a Framework of Six Types of Involvement. Briefly, these six types are:

1. Parenting
2. Communicating
3. Volunteering
4. Learning at Home
5. Decision Making
6. Collaborating with Community

What plans have been made to create an action team and implement a successful learning partnership in your school community? Have you considered asking the regional consortium nearest you to provide assistance in developing the knowledge, skills and attitudes necessary for an Action Team for School, Family, and Community Partnership to

support student learning? There are several very valuable resources available to support schools, school councils and jurisdictions to create effective learning partnerships.

The Alberta Teachers' Association has developed a manual to enhance plans and dialogue about parents, students, teachers and the community as education partners. It contains ideas about successful programs in Alberta schools where partnerships for student learning are growing. *Partners in Learning* manuals were sent to every school in fall 1996. Ask your school principal or school council chair to share this valuable manual at staff and school council meetings. Extra copies may also be obtained for \$20.00 from the ATA: phone 1-800-232-7208.

The *School Council Resource Manual*, 1995 also has excellent strategies to assist in developing effective school councils to support student learning. Copies were sent to all schools in October 1995. You can access the *Resource Manual* on the Alberta Education web site at <http://ednet.edc.gov.ab.ca>. Just search Partners.

School-Based Decision Making Resource Guide: Focus on Teaching and Learning will be sent to all school principals and school council chairs in fall, 1997. This support document contains practical strategies for use by teachers, principals, school council members, trustees, support staff, superintendents and secretary-treasurers. The *Resource Guide* is made-in-Alberta and contains stories and strategies of successful school-based decision making policies and procedures from across the province. The *Resource Guide* speaks to the importance of enhanced teaching and learning

Routing Slip Please help us provide this information to all potential consortia program participants. Please pass *Consortia Connections* on after you have read it!

- ☐ Teachers
- ☐ School Council Members
- ☐ P.D. Chairs
- ☐ Trustees
- ☐ Central Office Staff
- ☐ Support Staff

INSIDE

CAMP

SBDM and Board Inservice Plans

Alberta Assessment Consortium

as the goal of school-based decision making. The guide is designed to support the implementation of school-based decision making which benefits Alberta students. The guide also will be accessible on the Alberta Education web site.

CELEBRATE LEARNING

Alberta school council members, teachers, principals, support staff, superintendents, secretary-treasurers and trustees believe in learning! Between September 1, 1996 and April 30, 1997 close to 9000 adult learners participated in over 300 inservice, training and professional development programs offered by regional consortium. Adult learning involvement is expected to increase in 1997-98 as the work of the regional consortia become better known across the province. If you haven't yet had the opportunity to participate in a regional consortium learning program, be sure to obtain a copy of its newsletter or call the executive director.

Have a suggestion to offer?

Want assistance to coordinate, organize, or promote your inservice program?

Call the executive director of your local regional consortium.

Central Alberta Regional Consortium

Shirley Van Eaton, Executive Director
Phone: 342-3476, Fax: 343-1033 or
email: svaneaton@rdc.ab.ca
Newsletter: **Wavelengths**

Central Alberta Regional Consortium serves eight jurisdictions and eleven private schools. 968 participants were involved in 44 programs between September 1, 1996 and April 30, 1997. Central Alberta also initiated its PDPRO program involving over 8000 participants including many hundreds of students. Check with Shirley about this innovative school and community based professional development program which involves teachers, support staff, administrators, parents and students.

That's performance!!

CENTRAL ALBERTA ON THE WEB

Check out the new Central Alberta Regional Consortium web site at www.carc.reddeer.com. A local team of web site wizards have identified over 600 additional sites, some of which contain additional links within. A brief description follows each site and if possible, the link to Alberta curriculum is shown. For example **Netscape**

Route 6-16 at <http://www.microsys.com616default.htm> is maintained by Microsystems Software. It contains thousands of education links on many subjects of interest to parents and teachers. Three main subject areas include play, school work and parents and teachers.

Applied Technical Communication Handbook

One of the major objectives of the regional consortium is to share good professional development ideas across the province. So, if you are outside the Central Alberta Regional Consortium area, you might want to check out some of its curriculum projects. For example, phone Shirley and ask about the Applied Technical Communication Handbook being prepared by Central Alberta teachers for use at the elementary, middle and high school level. The handbook contains activities designed to give teachers quick access to suggestions for teaching their students valuable technical communication skills.

SUMMER WORKSHOPS AND PROGRAMS

Christian Schools International District #11
Educational Leadership Workshop
Central Alberta Christian High School, Lacombe
July 14 -25, 1997.
To register or for more information call **469-9653**.

Assured Readiness for Learning

August 18 - 21, 1997
For details, call or fax the consortium office.

WATCH FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE FOLLOWING PROGRAMS IN THE FALL ISSUE OF WAVELENGTHS

- * Using Achievement Test Results
- * Early Reading Intervention Outreach Program
- * Young Offender Protocol
- * Technology Workshops

October 4, 1997, **Teaming Up**: A conference for those who work with special needs students: teaching assistants, teachers, parents, principals, counsellors, education students and student teaching assistants.

Edmonton Regional Consortium

Bill Lockhart, Executive Director
Phone 492-5339, Fax 492-0390 or
e-mail: bfl@gpu.srv.ualberta.ca
Newsletter: **FRONTLINE**

ERC serves 22 jurisdictions and 7 private schools. 1681 participants took part in consortium programs between September 1, 1996 and April 30, 1997.

Edmonton Regional Consortium now has new professional development materials available for 'train the trainer' sessions. *Technology in the Classroom: A Guide for the Education Technology Planning Team* was developed for the consortium by Edna Dach, Elk Island Public Schools. *A Collection of Connections* for Western Canada Protocol Junior High Mathematics includes a teacher's manual and student handbook. Developers Sol Sigurdson and Tom Kieren, University of Alberta, have taken twelve activities and developed them into lessons. *CTS Leadership Modules A Teacher's Manual* including a collection of valuable handouts for classroom use has been developed by Sue Leighton-Nipp and Holly Tibble.

The ERC will be holding train the trainer sessions on the above materials in September 1997.

1997 SUMMER INSTITUTES
Call the Consortium for details

**Connecting with Alberta's
New Mathematics Curriculum**

Leadership Development

**Refuelling the Education Team: Changing
Appraisal to Collaborative Approaches to
Professional Learning**

Ready for the Future - Strategies for a Right Start for new
and returning classroom teachers

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR
FOR FALL PROGRAMS**

**A Community of Leaders and Learners Conference
Series for School Council Members**
begins September 20, 1997

**Technability: Improving Student Achievement in an
Electronic World**
November 7 and 8, 1997

Literacy in the 21st Century
October 24, 1997

Behavior/Classroom Management Conference
Edmonton and Lethbridge
May 1 and 2, 1998

Check the Edmonton Regional Consortium web site at
<http://www.ualberta.ca/~cpe/erc.htm> for details about these
and other programs.

Learning Network

Earl Choldin, Executive Director
Phone: 492-0454, Fax: 492-0390 or
e-mail: LearningNet@faculty.educ.ualberta.ca
Newsletter **PD NEWS**

Learning Network serves 7 jurisdictions and one private school. Between September 1, 1996 and April 30, 1997 close to 1000 adult learners participated in professional development programs designed to improve their skills to work with children.

FALL PROGRAMS BEING SET
Student-teacher relations with Michael Valentine
Two weekends in October and November.

Developing Your Disciplinary Plan
Interactive Television Conference
November 6 and 20, 1997

Solution-Focused Approach to Solving School Problems

Early Reading Intervention
Six days of learning over five months in Bonnyville and
Lac La Biche with Moira Juliebo, Peggy Kickham, and
Judy Pool

Using the Internet in the Classroom

Working with Students with Special Needs
Being planned for teacher aides

BEYOND EXPECTATIONS

What's Worth It With Middle Level Children
August 21, 22 and 23, 1997
Grand Centre High School
Cold Lake, Alberta

Come and see the beauty of northeastern Alberta and answer your questions about teaching middle level children. This conference is geared to those people who teach children between the ages of 10-14 years and its purpose is to provide educators and others with proactive ways to work with each other and the children to bring out the very best in themselves and their students. Featuring Dr. Nancy Doda as well as Jim Burns, Lea MacDonald, Jane Ripkens.

Calgary Regional Consortium

Jean Hoeft, Executive Director
Phone: 291-0967, Fax: 250-3204 or
e-mail: crc@rockyview.ab.ca
Newsletter **CRC UPDATE**

Calgary Regional Consortium serves 6 jurisdictions and 14 private schools. In its first eight months of operation, over 1300 participants were involved in 47 programs. Student learning depends on skilled and knowledgeable adult learners!

FALL PROGRAM PLANS

Diploma Exams and Achievement Test Workshops
Behavior Management
CTS: Sexual and Reproductive Health Programs
Division II Math Workshop Series
Early Reading Intervention Series
Elementary Music, Math and Science
Computer Guided Learning
Mediation Skills
Effective Newsletters
Multiple Intelligence
Programs for new administrators and teachers
Quality Teaching
School Council Show-Case
Technology Workshops for support and non-teaching staff.....and.....there's more.

Call the consortium for program information, pick up a copy of **CRC UPDATE** or visit us on the web.

Southern Alberta Professional Development Consortium

Louise Beermann, Executive Director
Phone: 381-5580, Fax: 329-2252 or
e-mail: allaf0@uleth.ca
Newsletter **PD PEDDLER**

SAPDC serves 10 jurisdictions and 6 private schools and has been in operation since 1989. 3735 people participated in 47 programs between in the 1996-97 school year.

Programs being developed for Fall 1997

- * Developing Teacher Evaluation Plans
- * Building Individual Professional Development Plans
- * Junior High Math - Parent Information
- * Technology Conference - Student Outcomes
- * Safe and Caring Schools
- * Fine Arts Symposium
- * Secondary Mathematics Program
- * Western Protocol Language Arts
- * Action Research Projects.....and much more

Northwest Regional Learning Consortium

Shona Sekulic Executive Director
Phone: 1-800-864-4140, Fax: 864-2773 or
email nrlc@agt.net
Newsletter **P.D. PIPELINE**

Northwest Regional Learning Consortium serves 11 school jurisdictions. Geographically, NRLC reaches out across over half the province of Alberta where about 32,000 students attend 150 schools. 2106 adults participated in Northwest Regional Learning professional development and inservice programs in its first eight months of operation.

SUMMER PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES

SchoolNet and the Internet

August 18, 1997

Designing a Web Page

August 21, 1997

LOOK WHAT'S COMING IN 1997-1998

Parenting with Wit and Wisdom

with Barbara Coloroso
March 4, 1998

Planning has begun for:

- * Teaching on the net
- * Beginning Teachers: Motivating and Mentoring
- * Time/Stress Management
- * Sessions for Teacher Assistants
 - ◇ Behavior Management
 - ◇ Values and Attitudes
 - ◇ Planning and Organizing
 - ◇ ADHD, FAS and more
- * Ongoing technology workshops
- * Developing professional growth plans
- * Elementary science
- * School council conference and workshops
- * Native Support Workers' Conference
- * Developing school plans
- * Lion's Quest
- * Administrators' Leadership Institute

Classroom Assessment Materials Project (CAMP)

The six regional consortia successfully hosted twelve "train the trainer" CAMP workshops around the province between March 13 and April 9. Two teams of Alberta Education CAMP staff conducted the series of one-day ses-

INDIVIDUAL PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT PLANS: A PATH TO GROWTH

by G. R. Thomas, A.T.A

The much awaited provincial teacher evaluation policy will require teachers to develop professional development plans each year. This is a welcome direction that will provide an opportunity for solid professional growth and reflection. While the exact details of the policy have not yet been announced, it's certainly possible to review what's likely ahead.

The policy will require each teacher to develop an individual PD plan each year in collaboration with the principal. The plan should be the teacher's plan (i.e., the teacher knows the teacher's own PD needs the best) The plan should consider the individual school, system and provincial PD goals and needs. In the end, however, the plan needs to be relevant to the teacher's PD needs. In other words, it is not essential to tie the plan to school PD or system PD. If a teacher feels challenged by a new curriculum or certain students in the teacher's class, the focus of the PD plan may well reflect these challenges rather than the school's PD focus of, say, technology. The teacher will have a responsibility to complete the plan and the principal and teacher will meet at the end of the school year to discuss the plan and the activities. For the process to work, the teacher needs to be able to focus on a PD plan that will genuinely improve practice. It can't be window dressing; it needs to reflect directions that will actually improve the teacher's teaching. In this respect, the teacher needs to control the individual PD plan process. There should be adequate guarantees in the provincial teacher evaluation policy for this process to work to everyone's advantage.

The Association has developed workshops in individual PD plans and these are available on a limited basis. Contact Janey Kemp in Professional Development at Barnett House (1-800-232-7208). If you have questions about individual PD plans, contact Gordon Thomas, at Barnett House.

Dr. Gordon Thomas is a member of the executive staff of the ATA. He works in the professional development program and is responsible for Association work in curriculum, student evaluation, and teacher evaluation. A graduate of the Universities of Lethbridge and Alberta, Dr. Thomas joined ATA staff in 1984 after teaching in the Sturgeon School Division. He is also adjunct professor of education at the University of Alberta and a founding member of the Southern Alberta Professional Development Consortium Board of Directors.

The above article is reprinted from the Spring, 1997 issue of

PD Peddler (SAPDC Newsletter) with the permission of Dr. Gordon Thomas.

CTS '97 Summer Leadership Institute

for Teachers, Counsellors and Administrators

August 19-22, 1997

Olds College, Olds, Alberta

The CTS Leadership Seminar will provide opportunities to work with selected CTS strands through talking, sharing, working and doing. You can come for one, two, three, or all four days and select from one-hour, half-day or full-day sessions. For more information contact:

Gary Bertrand, Program Consultant, CTS,
Alberta Education, Phone: 297-5022, Fax: 297-3842
e-mail: Gbertrand@edc.gov.ab.ca OR
Yvonne Norton, Continuing Professional Education,
University of Alberta Phone: 492-4209,
Fax: 492-0390 e-mail: yvonne.norton@ualberta.ca

Registration forms at <http://ednet.edc.gov.ab.ca>

REGIONAL CONSORTIA offer support to boards and schools to implement school-based decision making focused on teaching and learning...

Six regional consortia have operated in Alberta during 1996-97. Each regional consortium is governed by a board of directors made up of local representatives appointed by the education partner organizations—CASS, ATA, AHSCA, ASBOA, ASBA and the University or College in its region. One full year into operation, the consortia recognize that an important step in maintaining a successful organization is ensuring that the primary purpose remains clear to all participants. William Bergquist, writing in the PostModern Organization: Mastering the Art of Irreversible Change, states, "Organizations today are poised on the edge of chaos—caught in the unpredictable, ambiguous postmodern era where the systems of the past no longer apply and the rules of the future have not yet been made clear. Just as postmodern art or architecture brings together old and new elements to create an entirely new style, the postmodern organization blends dimensions of the past and present to create new forms and the need for new skills and attitudes. The ways in which organizations operate have been forever changed and only those who understand these changes will be prepared to succeed in the emerging postmodern world." Can regional

Urban League, The Children's Partnership has just released a new publication, *"The Parents' Guide to the Information Superhighway: Rules and Tolls for Families Online"*. This guide for parents in an online world offers practical help for parents as they explore the Internet with their children at home, in the community and at school. Along with an "Action Sheet for Parents", the guide is designed to encourage parents' involvement with schools and community policy decisions. Available online at <http://www.childrenspartnership.org>. It is also available as a print publication. Price per copy is \$8.00 US. Write to the Children's Partnership/Tides Center, 1460 4th St., Ste. 306, Santa Monica, CA 90410

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY HOTLINE PROVIDES TEACHER RESOURCES

Alberta Science and Technology hotlines promote awareness of science, engineering and technology, particularly among elementary, junior and senior high school students. Teachers and community group leaders with requests for service or questions call the Hotline Coordinator who maintains a database of volunteers from many scientific fields.

Services—The coordinator responds to requests by finding a volunteer in the specific area that has the interest and time to fill the request. A single phone call to the Hotline connects the teacher directly to professional scientists, technologists, engineers and mathematicians with a four week lead to arrange classroom visits. Volunteers are professionals interested in proofing science education, are available during school hours, have a degree/diploma in an area of science, engineering or technology, or have a very strong interest/knowledge in a particular area through membership in a related professional society, project or club.

If you wish to utilize the hotline services, contact: Michael Caley, The Science & Technology Hotline (Edmonton) 403-448-0055, Email: hotline@oanet.com

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PEMBINA HILLS REGIONAL DIVISION develops outstanding technology PD program!

This summer Pembina Hills Regional Division presents its sixth annual summer computer camp for teachers—an outstanding technology professional development program. Last year approximately 128 participants attended 150 courses.

All employees of Pembina Hills Regional Division are invited to participate in this hands-on camp, to be held August 18-22 in Barrhead. Participants can attend any number of days choosing from one to five classes. There is no

cost for instruction and lunch is included.

Why is the camp so popular? "We have a committed group of teachers who want to upgrade their skills in the use of technology and are willing to give up part of their summer," according to David Panas, Associate Superintendent. The courses are based on a needs assessment. This year participants can choose from such courses as Claris Works, Introduction to Computers for Absolute Beginners, Introduction to the Internet, Using Internet for Instruction, Advanced Internet, Multimedia Presentations and many more. The courses are conducted by Pembina Hills staff, consultants, and software suppliers.

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BUFFALO TRAIL REGIONAL DIVISION DEVELOPS INNOVATIVE PROGRAM Growing and Learning Together—Professional Growth Model

The Buffalo Trail Regional Division has developed a computer assisted teacher evaluation instrument that both improves and simplifies the teacher evaluation process. The model utilizes pre and post classroom observations. Computer templates and NCR forms contain the performance standards and their indicators as time-saving macros. This enables the evaluator to quickly insert consistent and concise language into all documents and reports. Report writing is then made easier with a standardized format that is aligned with the other portions of the evaluation process.

The performance standards are divided into the areas of: Planning (diagnosis, content, analysis, prescription); Evaluation (assessment procedures, diagnosis, reporting); and Professional Image (communication, responsibility, growth).

Some of the highlights of the professional growth model are:

- ⇒ it follows provincial policies
- ⇒ provides a common language for both employers and employees
- ⇒ affords an opportunity to provide accurate, validated and specific data in a direct yet supportive environment
- ⇒ focuses on the improvement of instruction to increase learning
- ⇒ assures the governing board and the community that the system is accountable for providing quality teaching.

For further information please contact Barry Wowk at Buffalo Trail Regional Division #28, 842-6144, fax 842-3255.

Reprinted from PDNEWS, a publication of Learning Network.

MORE INFORMATION

If you need more information on consortia or if you would like to see a particular issue discussed in Consortia Connections newsletter, call:

Pearl Gregor, Education Manager, Regional Office Branch

☎: 427-2952 Fax: 422-9682, or

✉: pgregor@edc.gov.ab.ca In AB call Toll Free: 310-0000